

**Randolph Technical Career Center
17 Forest Street
Randolph, VT 05060**

**Media and Communications 2011 – 2012
Program Syllabus**

Instructor: Thomas C. Webb

Embedded Credit: Science

Program Description:

The Media and Communications class is an intensive yearlong introduction to visual storytelling, video production, film theory and journalism. Applicants should have an interest in writing stories, exploring computer technology, mastering video equipment and cultivating teamwork.

Media and Communications is fast paced, teamwork oriented and full of opportunities for learning new skills and self-directed learning.

Summary of Class Topics:

Each week the team will produce a video production ranging from narrative films, documentary films, commercials, music videos, television shows and web series. Students are given the opportunity to perform each of the crucial functions of the production. These jobs include producer, director, camera operator, lighting technician, sound technician, writer, editor and on-camera performer.

Once a week the class will analyze an article related to the field of Media and Communications. These readings give students a good understanding of how media operates and how media plays an intricate roll in our daily lives. These articles cover a wide range of topics from new and evolving technology trends to effectively distributing your film over the Internet.

Throughout the year students will dissect popular movie scenes looking at why the director made the choices they did. These choices include shot design, color, pacing, critical choice, pivotal beat, whose scene it is and the use of music. This process will help students understand why movies are shot and edited the way they are.

Also, Media and Communications teams up with Graphic Arts to watch a series of classic films. After viewing each film the students analyze the story to learn about plot, character, emotional charge, shots, scenes, sequences, acts, climax, and resolution.

And finally students practice solid filmmaking techniques. Each student writes and directs short films in order to master setting, character, empty/off-screen space, reflections, foreground/background action, composition, casting and product placement.

Once students learn the core skill set of Media and Communications they dive into a tech project. This project is designed by the student, written by the student, and produced by the student. Tech projects are a fantastic way to create an accomplished piece of portfolio work for college or job applications.

Employment Opportunities:

This program prepares students to pursue employment in many career fields including web, television, film, radio, newspapers, publishing, editing, writing, and marketing. Upon completion of the program students will focus on achieving an associates, bachelors, or masters degree at college. After college there are numerous paths through which to enter the industry.

The program offers co-op opportunities through ORCA Media cable TV out of Montpelier, as well as work experience covering local events or designing productions for local businesses.

Grading:

- 25% Video Productions
- 25% Written Work
- 25% Production Assignments
- 25% Junior or Senior Technical Project

Program of Study Components

Prerequisite Courses:

- ✓ 2 English credits (3 for seniors)
- ✓ 2 math credits (3 for seniors)
 - A fundamental understanding of algebra is recommended.
- ✓ 2 social studies credits
- ✓ 2 science credits
 - A foundation in computer science is recommended.
- ✓ Completed requirements for physical education, health, drivers' education or other courses that would reduce a student's time to focus on the program.
- ✓ 1 art credit is recommended
 - Fine art, photography, video, 3D, or music will satisfy this recommendation

Application Requirements:

- 500 word essay on the applicant's interest in media and communications
- 500 word short fictional story
- 3D portfolio submission or video portfolio submission

Credit Available:

- ✓ Embedded Science - Association for Computing Machinery Computer Science Curriculum,
 - International Society for Technology in Education - ISTE)
- ✓ English
- ✓ Community service hours
- ✓ Tech project (satisfies senior project requirement)
- ✓ 3 credit articulation agreement through Community College of Vermont, "Introduction to Film Studies."

Post Secondary Education Options:

RTCC's program provides a solid foundation for application to any colleges and universities that offer programs related to the communications field.

Many New England colleges and institutions throughout the US offer higher education in media: UVM, Middlebury College, Champlain College, Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, Castleton State College, Full Sail University, Burlington College, CCV, Art Institutes, Savannah College of Art & Design.